

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 8, 2003 has been fully considered by the Applicant.

Claims 1, 7, 8, and 11 are currently amended. Claims 2-5, 10,12 and 14 have been previously amended. Claims 6, 9, and 13 have been canceled.

A check and a Request for Three Month Extension of Time is enclosed herewith.

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Austin (US 6,470, 139) in view of Perlman (US 6,530,085).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include that when an adaptor is attached to the printed circuit board it is located within a housing of the apparatus and having at least one output connection exposed externally of the housing to allow the attachment of a phone and/or other format connectors thereto. Neither the Perlman '085 patent nor the Austin '139 patent includes the provision of an adapter attached to a printed circuit board located within a housing and having at least one output connection exposed externally of such housing to allow the attachment thereto. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Perlman '085 patent does not describe Applicant's invention as currently amended. Perlman '085 includes a cable which is required to be inserted into SCART connectors and at the opposing end a range of connector types which can include the PHONO cable connector can be provided. Thus, in Perlman, a purchase of the specific cable 138 is required to allow the adaptation to be made. The consumer of the apparatus would need to purchase the additional cable of the Perlman '085 patent after he/she discovered that the connector types of the different items of the apparatus were incompatible. No such additional purchase is necessary with Applicant's invention. In Applicant's invention, the manufacturer of the apparatus provides the converter device with the product, then at the time of the product being put on sale, makes the conversion. The user does not

have to purchase additional cable to properly operate Applicant's adapter.

Applicant's invention provides for a converting connector that is fitted to an apparatus which has already been designed for use with a SCART connector. The converting connector is fitted inside a housing of the apparatus. The fitting of the converter connector inside the housing of the apparatus is performed by the manufacturer prior to the apparatus being placed for sale in the United States or elsewhere. Applicant's apparatus allows manufacturers of such apparatus originally designed for use with SCART connectors to readily adapt their products for immediate use in the United States and to comply with United States connection devices. The key advantage of Applicant's adapter having a converter connector within a housing of the apparatus is that the manufacturer can provide the converter device within their product, then at the time of the product being put on sale, the same has already been converted and therefore the user, upon purchasing the device, can immediately start to use the apparatus without the need to purchase additional cables or the like.

Applicant's adapter is selectively elongate to change the connector type of the apparatus prior to it being put on sale. The consumer is not required to change or adapt the apparatus in any way, as in the Perlman '085 patent; rather Applicant's apparatus is adopted for use by the manufacturer.

The Austin '139 patent discloses the use of SCART connectors. Applicant does not dispute that SCART connectors were known and that apparatuses were known which incorporated use of such connectors. However, the Austin '139 patent does not include an electrical apparatus for processing of video and/or audio data having a printed circuit board within an apparatus housing and when an adapter is attached to the printed circuit board it is located within a housing of the apparatus and has at least one output connection exposed externally of the housing to allow the attachment of a phone and/or other format connectors thereto. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection is

respectfully requested.

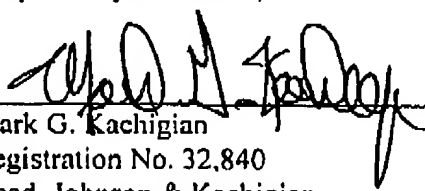
As now amended Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of the aforestated claims under 35 USC 103(a). Absent some suggestion or motivation supporting the combination of references, the references may not properly be combined. "The mere fact that references *can* be combined or modified does not render the resulting combination obvious unless the prior art suggests the desirability of the combination". M.P.E.P. Section 2143.01 (Emphasis in original). Further, it is necessary for the Examiner to set forth *evidence* that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been led to combine the teaching of the applied references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that currently amended claims 1-14 are allowable over the art of record.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections based on the above amendments and arguments.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If any further issues remain, a telephone conference with the Examiner is requested. If any fees or charges are associated herewith, please credit deposit Account No. 08-1500.

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